MARVEL COMICS
ELEKTRA
MAY
#18
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UNCHASTE!
MIKE DEODATO JR
HAMA
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KOBLISH
DIRECT EDITION
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ELEKTRA

Bad girl. Rejected by the light. **Elektra** is a new super-heroine on the verge, using her superior martial arts skills to fight her way towards redemption.

Elektra once defined herself by the men in her life: daughter of a powerful Greek diplomat who was assassinated, and girlfriend of **Matt Murdock**, aka the super hero **Daredevil**. When tragedy struck and her father was killed, Elektra fell into the darkness.

As a member of **the Hand**, she used her powerful martial arts abilities to become a master assassin. Now, she's torn between her blood lust...and redemption!

NINA

Elektra's roommate, an orphan whose father was killed accidentally during a battle between Elektra and Bullseye. Elektra feels responsible for her, and empathizes with her as well.

STICK

A member of the Chaste, and one-time trainer and mentor to Daredevil, Stick has been playing the same role for Elektra.

KUROYAMA

A.k.a. "the Blue Mountain," an undead ninja of the Hand, an arcane sect of assassins.

STAVROS

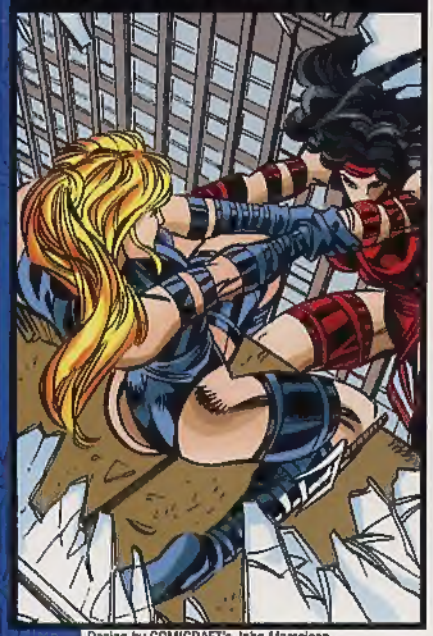
Gardener of Elektra's father's estate in Greece, Stavros also acted as Elektra's bodyguard when she went to college in New York.

PREVIOUSLY IN ELEKTRA

Elektra's ward Nina was killed by the Hand, and then revived by them in order to fight Elektra.

Elektra defeats, but does not kill Nina...

...and in gratitude for this kindness, Nina saves Elektra's life!



In return, Elektra takes Nina to find the Chaste, so that Nina might seek redemption.

Design by COMICRAFT's John Marasigan

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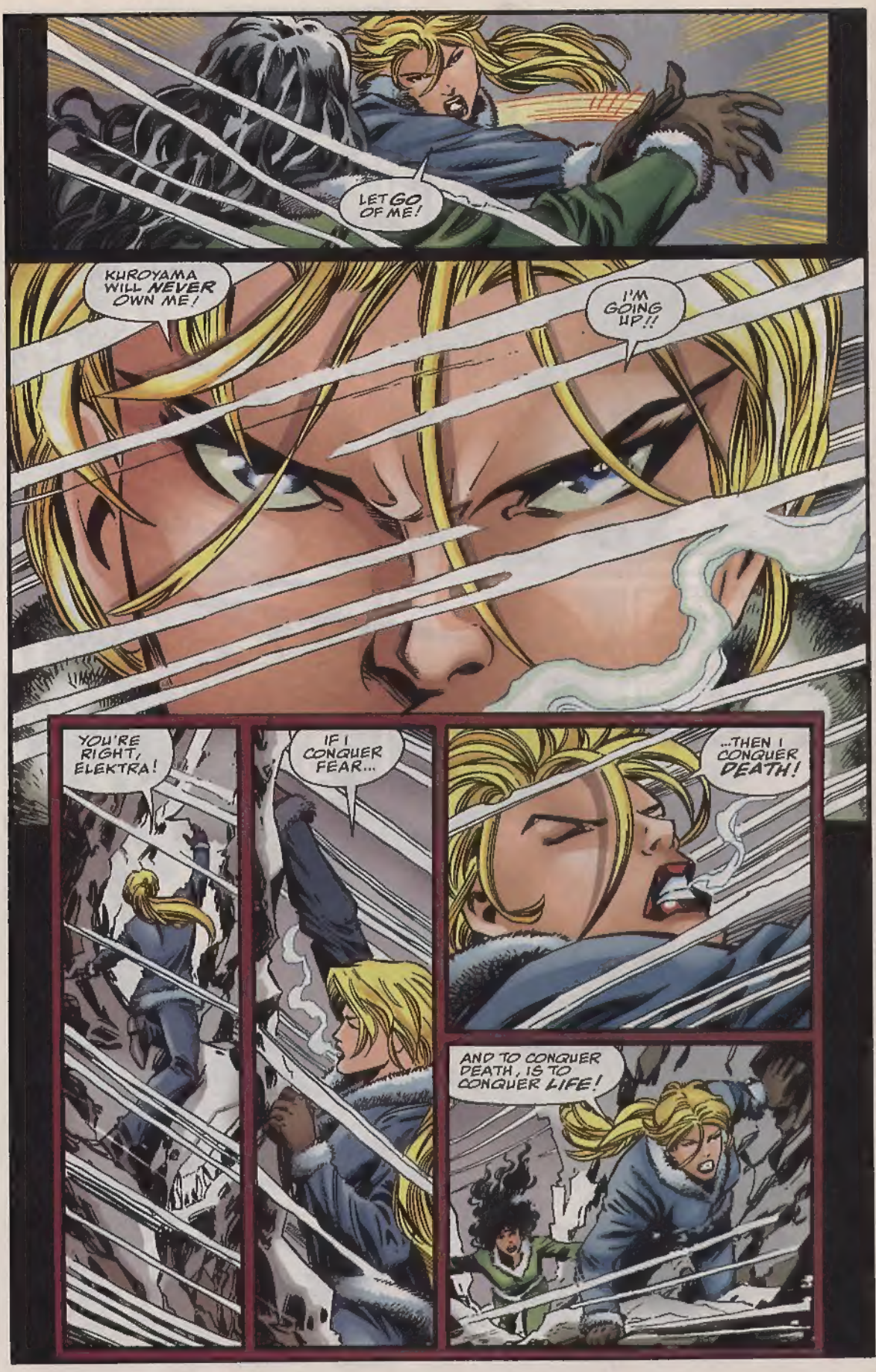
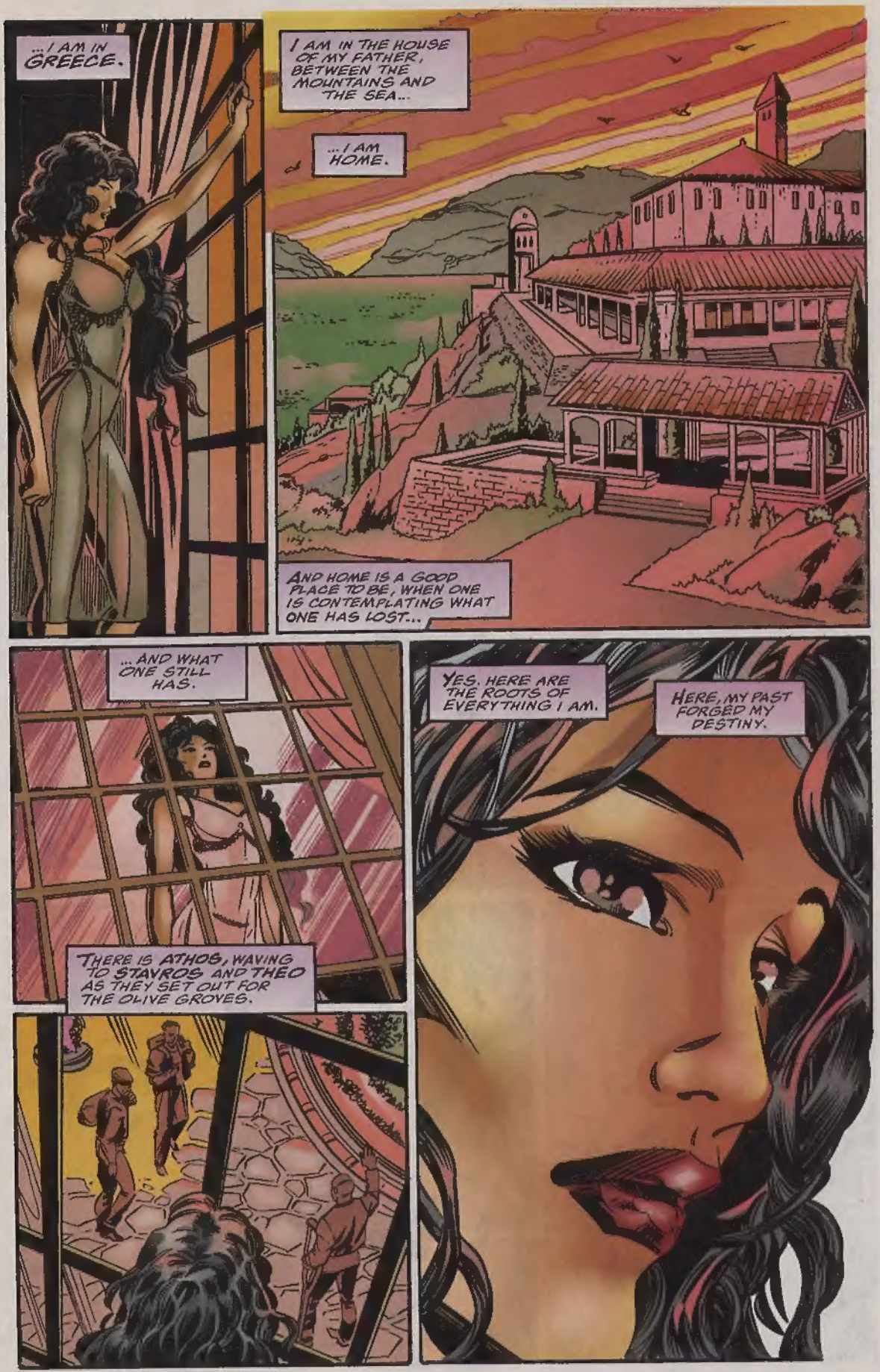
BUT ALWAYS, THE FINAL LEG IS UP A SHEER VERTICAL CHIMNEY...
...LIKE THIS ONE.
IT'S TOO DIFFICULT... AND I'M TOO TIRED..
...YOU GO AHEAD OF ME AND PULL ME UP, ELEKTRA!
EACH ASPIRANT MUST MAKE THE CLIMB ON THEIR OWN POWER!
THIS IS THE FIRST TEST!
I CAN'T MAKE IT--!
--I'M SLIPPPIING!!

THWOMP
I'VE HAD IT!
I CAN'T CUT THE MUSTARD! IT'S TOO TOUGH!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
BACK DOWN THE MOUNTAIN! I'M QUITTING!
QUITTING IS NOT AN OPTION!!
YOU FOUGHT YOUR WAY BACK FROM DEATH, AND TOTAL SUBJUGATION BY THE HAND!
IF YOU DON'T MAKE IT UP THIS LAST CLIFF FACE AND GAIN ADMISSION TO THE CHASTE...
...YOU ARE GOING TO BE LOST IN A GRAY LIMBO FOREVER!
IF YOU DON'T DO THIS, YOU WILL BELONG TO KUROYAMA!

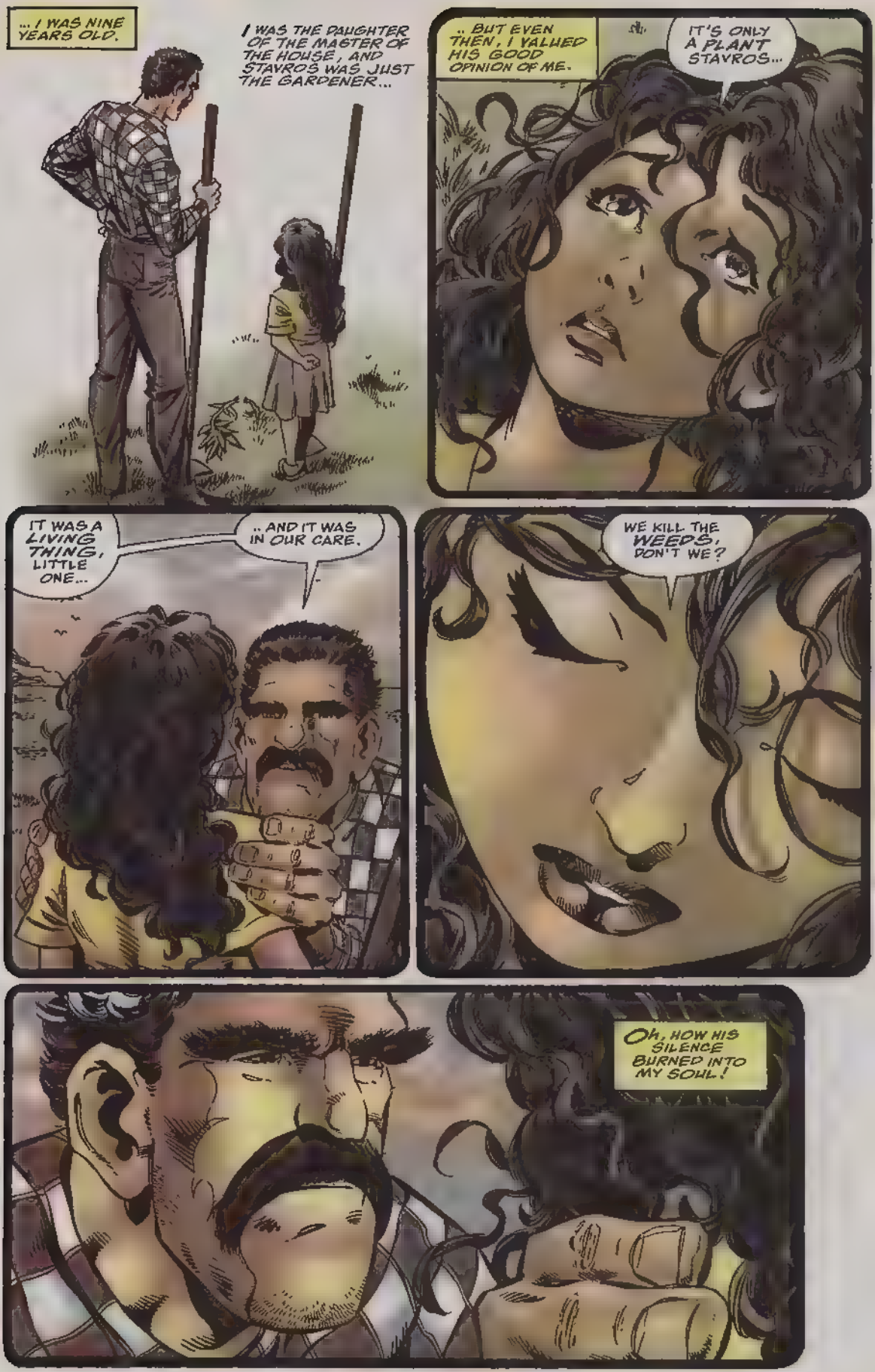

LET GO OF ME!
KUROYAMA WILL NEVER OWN ME!
I'M GOING UP!!
YOU'RE RIGHT, ELEKTRA!
IF I CONQUER FEAR...
...THEN I CONQUER DEATH!
AND TO CONQUER DEATH, IS TO CONQUER LIFE!

I BEEN SAYIN' THAT ALL ALONG, TOOTS.
THAT VOICE!
...HELP ME UP, STICK!
CAN'T DO IT, TOOTS!
YOU GOT TOO MUCH PSYCHIC BAGGAGE, TOO MUCH ANGER, TOO MUCH UNRE-SOLVED HURT AND NOT ENOUGH ALPHA WAVES.
I NEED THE COMMUNION, STICK!
I NEED THE HEALING OF THE CHASTE!
THIS AIN'T NO HEALTH SPA, ELEKTRA!
THIS AIN'T NO BETTY FORD CLINIC...

...THIS AIN'T NO FOOLIN' AROUND!
NOOOO!!
YOU CAN'T CAST ME OUT FOREVER!
I WANT TO GO HOME!
I WANT TO GO HOME!
I WANT TO--
BUT I AM HOME...


...I AM IN GREECE.
I AM IN THE HOUSE OF MY FATHER, BETWEEN THE MOUNTAINS AND THE SEA...
...I AM HOME.
AND HOME IS A GOOD PLACE TO BE, WHEN ONE IS CONTEMPLATING WHAT ONE HAS LOST...
...AND WHAT ONE STILL HAS.
THERE IS ATHOS, WAVING TO STAVROS AND THEO AS THEY SET OUT FOR THE OLIVE GROVES.
YES. HERE ARE THE ROOTS OF EVERYTHING I AM.
HERE, MY PAST FORGED MY DESTINY.

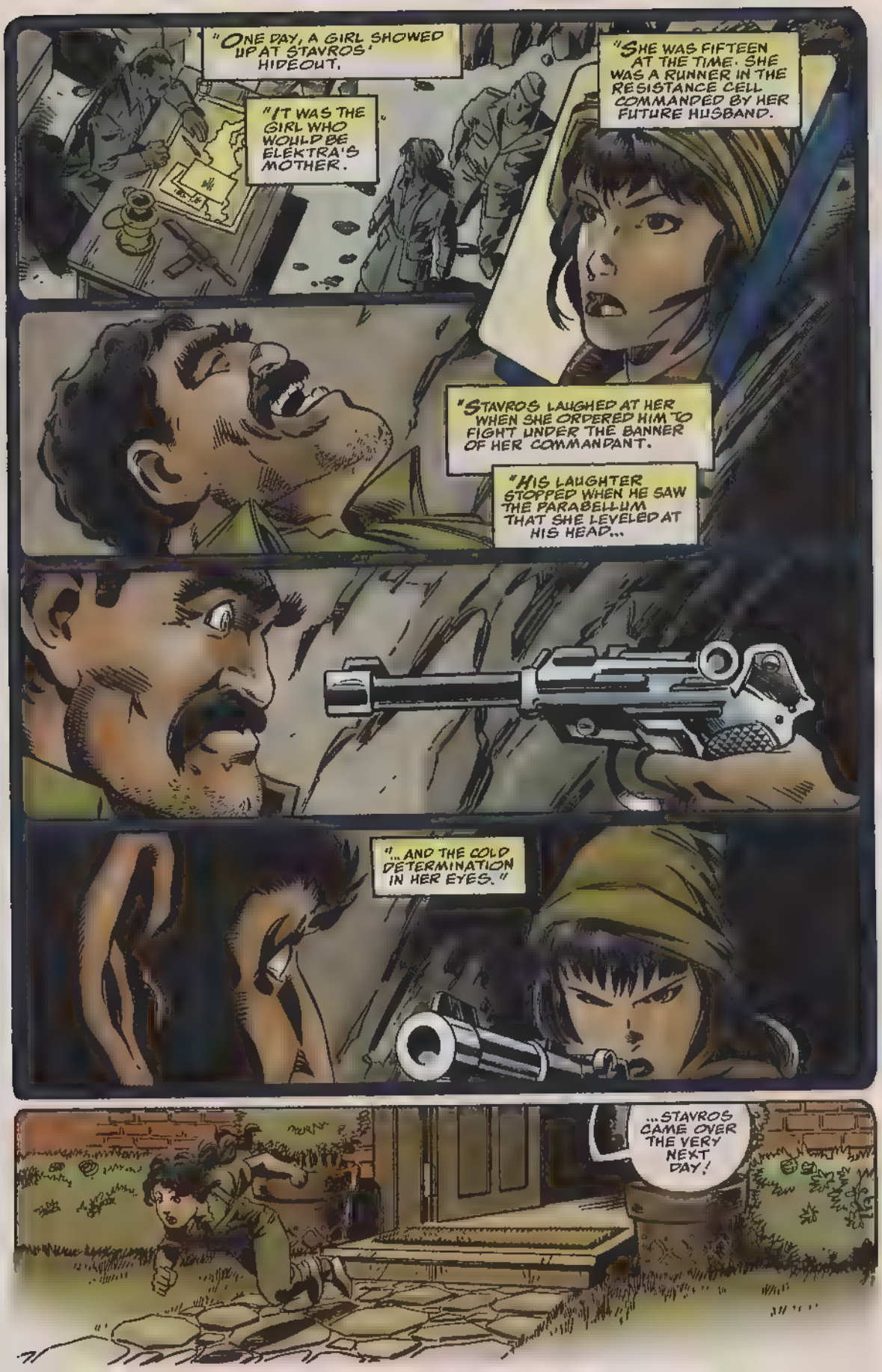
THE LITTLE ONE BRINGS US REFRESHMENTS!
SHE IS NOT SO LITTLE ANY MORE, STAVROS.
SHE REMAINS SO IN AN OLD MAN'S MEMORY, THEO.
AH! RETSINA! A SPECIAL OCCASION?
TO BE BACK WITH OLD FRIENDS IS ALWAYS SPECIAL.
HA! LIFE IS GOOD, EH?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT TREE THIS IS, LITTLE ONE?
IT IS THE ONE WE PLANTED TO REPLACE THE SAPLING I KILLED WITH MY CARELESS HOEING...


... I WAS NINE YEARS OLD.
I WAS THE DAUGHTER OF THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE, AND STAVROS WAS JUST THE GARDENER...
.. BUT EVEN THEN, I VALUED HIS GOOD OPINION OF ME.
IT'S ONLY A PLANT STAVROS...
IT WAS A LIVING THING, LITTLE ONE...
.. AND IT WAS IN OUR CARE.
WE KILL THE WEEDS, DON'T WE?
Oh, HOW HIS SILENCE BURNED INTO MY SOUL!

THE NEXT MORNING, WE PLANTED A NEW SAPLING...
YES, WE KILL WEEDS AND THE BEETLES THAT EAT THE OLIVE LEAVES, BUT WE ARE CAREFUL TO TAKE NO PLEASURE IN IT.
WE PLANT THE FISH WITH IT, TO GIVE THE TREE LIFE, AND TO REMIND US OF HIM WHO WAS THE FISHER OF MEN.
YES, WE TAKE NO PLEASURE IN KILLING THE WEEDS.
HOW COULD WE ENJOY OUR LAMB AT EASTER IF WE SAW THE BUTCHER SMILING AS HE SLIT ITS THROAT?
YOU ARE QUIET A LONG TIME, LITTLE ONE.
I WAS... REMEMBERING.

I REMEMBERED ALSO, EXULTING IN THE SHEER PLEASURE OF MY DEADLY EXPERTISE..
...REJOICING IN THE HOT WHITE LIGHT OF MARTIAL PERFECTION.
THIS, THEN, WAS THE CORE OF MY IMPURITY.
THE FATAL FLAW THAT KEEPS ME APART FROM THE CHASTE.
IT WAS TIME TO ASK THE QUESTION.
THE STAVROS I THOUGHT I KNEW WAS TROUBLED BY THE KILLING OF WEEDS.
THIS STAVROS, WHO'D MENTIONED IN PASSING TO ME THAT HE HAD KNOWN MY MOTHER...
MY MOTHER, WHO I HAD NEVER KNOWN, AND WHOSE NAME WAS NEVER MENTIONED IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE...

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT DAY, STAVROS, THAT YOU SENT ME TO THE HOUSE TO FETCH THE WHETSTONE FOR THE PRUNING HOOK...?
IN THE PANTRY, I OVERHEARD COOK AND ATHOS IN THE KITCHEN.
"...THE SS WENT TO HIS MOTHER'S HOUSE AND NAILED HER TO THE DOOR.
WHAT? STAVROS THE KILLER? STAVROS THE AVENGING ANGEL?
"STAVROS BECAME THE EXTERMINATING ANGEL OF CRETE...
IT WAS IN THE WAR AGAINST THE FASCISTS. STAVROS WENT TO CRETE TO FIGHT THE NAZIS...
"...KILLING WITH FAIRBOURNE DAGGER, STEN GUN, GELIGNITE AND PIANO WIRE."


"ONE DAY, A GIRL SHOWED UP AT STAVROS' HIDEOUT.
"IT WAS THE GIRL WHO WOULD BE ELEKTRA'S MOTHER.
"SHE WAS FIFTEEN AT THE TIME. SHE WAS A RUNNER IN THE RESISTANCE CELL COMMANDED BY HER FUTURE HUSBAND.
"STAVROS LAUGHED AT HER WHEN SHE ORDERED HIM TO FIGHT UNDER THE BANNER OF HER COMMANDANT.
"HIS LAUGHTER STOPPED WHEN HE SAW THE PARABELLUM THAT SHE LEVELED AT HIS HEAD...
"...AND THE COLD DETERMINATION IN HER EYES."
...STAVROS CAME OVER THE VERY NEXT DAY!

Oh, STAVROS! WAS EVERY-THING YOU TOLD ME A LIE?!
SHE, WHOSE VERY NAME WAS NEVER MENTIONED IN OUR HOUSE!
IN THE GROVE, WHERE I HAD EXPECTED TO FIND STAVROS, WERE TWO STRANGERS WITH RIFLES..
IT'S THE TRAITOR'S DAUGHTER.
...MIGHT AS WELL DO HER, TOO!
BUT MORE IMPORTANT-- WAS THERE MORE YOU COULD TELL ME ABOUT MY MOTHER?!
NO, NIKO! WE ARE PATRIOTS, NOT MURDERERS OF CHILDREN!!
YOU HAVE NO GRASP OF REALITY, THEO!
THIS IS THE SHE-WHELP OF THE DOG WHO WOULD SELL OUR COUNTRY TO THE WESTERN PLUTO-CRATS!!

SHE IS FILTH.
SHE IS LESS THAN THE SHEEP WE WILL CULL IN SPRING...
...AND SHE DIES AS EASILY--
I THOUGHT I WAS SCREAMING..
...BUT IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE.
I THOUGHT I WAS BLEEDING...
..BUT IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE.
AND THERE YOU WERE, STAVROS, WITH YOUR PRUNING HOOK!
THEO, Oh THEO WAS SO YOUNG THEN.
...HE TRIED TO UNSLING HIS RIFLE...

...BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.
I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF.
HE IS NOT A WEED, STAVROS!
HE CAME TO KILL YOUR FATHER, LITTLE ONE, NOT FOR VENDETTA OR FOR HONOR, BUT FOR PASTEBOARD IDEALS AND HOLLOW WORDS!
HE WOULD HAVE SPARED ME.
I ASK YOU FOR HIS LIFE.
...AND SO YOU HID THE SECOND RIFLE, AND THEO BECAME THE SON YOU NEVER HAD.
WHY DO YOU ROIL THESE OLD WATERS, LITTLE ONE? WHAT IS THE POINT?

I'M NOT FINISHED.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN I WAS GROWN AND LEAVING HOME TO GO TO UNIVERSITY IN NEW YORK?
YOU BROUGHT FIGS AND OLIVES AND CAME AND SAT IN THE KITCHEN NURSING ONE GLASS OF OUZO FOR AN HOUR.
FINALLY, YOU TOLD ME THAT I WOULD LEARN MUCH AT THIS COLUMBIA...
...BUT THERE WAS A TRUTH THAT I'D TAUGHT YOU WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, AND HERE WAS OLD STAVROS TO TEACH IT RIGHT BACK TO ME.
YOU SAID, "REDEMPTION IS NOT FREE; IT MUST BE PAID BACK IN KIND."
"TO WHOM?" I ASKED.
"TO THE UNIVERSE," YOU REPLIED.

WHAT IS IT YOU WANT TO KNOW, LITTLE ONE?
ABOUT MY MOTHER...
SHE WAS A SAINT. THERE'S NOT MUCH MORE TO SAY.
THE ONE STORY I KNOW ABOUT HER WAS SOMETHING I OVERHEARD ATHOS SAY: SOMETHING I WAS NEVER MEANT TO HEAR.
YOU NEVER SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR MOTHER!!
A TALE ABOUT HER GOING TO MEET YOU DURING THE WAR... YOU SAW SOMETHING IN HER EYES THAT TOLD YOU...
...SHE WAS A KILLER.
SHE WAS NO KILLER! THAT CARING, GENTLE WOMAN HAD NO HATRED IN HER HEART!
WHAT I SAW IN HER EYES WAS HER WILL, AND I KNEW THAT I WAS NOTHING COMPARED TO HER!

YOU WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?
I WILL TELL YOU ABOUT THE DAY SHE DIED!
"YOUR FATHER AND ATHOS WERE IN ATHENS ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.
"YOUR MOTHER WAS IN HER EIGHTH MONTH, AND IT FELL TO ME TO TAKE HER TO THE CLINIC EXAMINATION.
"SHE SENT ME TO THE MARKET AND TOLD ME TO RETURN IN ONE HOUR.
"THE DOCTOR WAS YOUNG. A GOOD MAN. COMPASSIONATE AND UPRIGHT.
"AH, BUT HE WAS A NORTHERN CYPRIOT. A TURK--
"--AND THIS WAS THE TIME OF THE PARTITION.

"A MAN WHO CONSIDERED HIMSELF A PATRIOT WALKED INTO THE CLINIC WITH A BARKING PISTOL IN HIS HAND...
"...AND A BLACK FURY IN HIS HEART.
"HIS MURDEROUS DEED DONE, HE TOOK A HOSTAGE TO MAKE GOOD HIS ESCAPE.
"A LONE VOICE CALLED OUT FOR HIM TO STOP.
"YOUR MOTHER.
"SHE TOLD HIM TO PUT DOWN THE GUN. THAT THERE HAD BEEN ENOUGH KILLING...
"...BUT THE PATRIOT STILL HAD THE FIRE OF RIGHTEOUS INDIGNATION BURNING WITHIN HIM, YOU SEE.

"SHE MUST HAVE KNOWN SHE WAS DYING...
"BUT SHE HAD BEEN THROUGH THE WAR, AND WHEN THE HOSTAGE MADE HER MOVE...
"...YOUR MOTHER TOOK TACTICAL ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION.
"...THAT THIS ONE HAD KILLED HER AND PERHAPS EVEN THE CHILD WITHIN HER.
"I AM CERTAIN THE PATRIOT SAW THAT SAME WILL IN YOUR MOTHER'S EYES THAT I SAW...
"...AND HE WAS AFRAID!"
SO SHE SHOT HIM?

NO, LITTLE ONE.
SHE KNEW THAT TO DO THAT WOULD MAKE HER NO BETTER THAN HE.
SHE KEPT THE CROWD FROM TEARING HIM APART UNTIL THE ARMY CAME AND TOOK HIM AWAY.
YOU WERE BORN THERE, ON THE CLINIC FLOOR, AMID THE BLOOD AND SPENT CARTRIDGES, AS I HELD YOUR MOTHER IN MY ARMS.
SHE WANTED TO HEAR YOUR FIRST CRY, BUT SHE HEARD THE ANGELS SINGING INSTEAD.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SAI'D BAR

POLLY WATSON ASSISTANT EDITOR

BOBBIE CHASE EDITOR

BOB HARRAS CHIEF

Dear Polly and Bobbie,

I have been following ELEKTRA since Frank Miller created her. I had not purchased a comic in several years and when I walked into my local comic shop and asked if anything had been published lately regarding our esteemed assassin, he pointed out that I had probably not frequented a comics shop in a while and handed me ELEKTRA #14.

The cover was outstanding and the content was fabulous. Deodato, Koblish, and Scheele did a great job and I am anxiously anticipating Larry Hama's views on what life throws Elektra next. Just a note to say thank you.

I have now located and purchased issue #s 1-11 and will soon find 12 and 13. Never ever put Elektra to rest! (Not that she'd let you!)

Lance Rothstein
Tallahassee, FL
f2qphoto@aol.com

Well, Lance, better late than never, eh? We're glad to see you were able to find all the back issues you were looking for, because there was plenty of great backstory to catch up on! And, even though the series will be ending with next issue--yes, it's sad but true--be sure to keep an eye out for Elektra and Mac in the PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN/ELEKTRA '98 ANNUAL, due out in August! And we hope you caught Elektra's appearance in DAREDEVIL #375!

Hi, guys, and a belated Happy New Year!

Welcome aboard, Mr. Hama! I'm confident this book is now in better hands than ever! Please can we see some of the characters from the original limited series once more, as well as some of those from the most recent one?

Will Elektra win back that which the Hand took from her, or will this story line drag out a while longer? Also, I was sorry to see Nina go, though I suppose it was inevitable. How about the rest? Can't say I'm overly keen on them, but if you can think of ways to make them a little more 3-D, then I might be happy to see them stay. Personally, I think you'd have more fun with the likes of Perry and Chastity, not to mention some of your own creations!

Also, let's see more Wolvie, more Daredevil, and more S.H.I.E.L.D.! Not too much Wolvie and DD, though. It was good to see Shang-Chi and the Kingpin set to make an appearance. Perhaps Shang would make a more suitable/interesting paramour?

Take care, now. I'll be in touch soon.

Paul M. Slattery
pms@ringstead.demon.co.uk

And a belated Happy New Year to you, too, Paul! We've been striving to make ELEKTRA's supporting cast as well-rounded as the book's star, and we hope you've been pleased with our success! As for your guest star requests: sheesh! Everybody wants Wolverine and Daredevil! Don't these guys have enough going on in their own books? Give 'em a break!

And what was that about Shang-Chi? A possible love interest for Elektra? Hmm... that would be kind of interesting, wouldn't it? It doesn't look like there's much chance of that right now, but you never know what the future holds!

Hey, guys!

This past year I started to get into some of the newer Marvel titles, and I have to say ELEKTRA is great! The artwork and stories are always a treat! To be honest, I think that the best books Marvel is publishing would be a tie between ELEKTRA and SILVER SURFER as far as consistent stories and artwork go.

Anyhow, issue #15 was amazing. I figured sooner or later that the Hand would be making life miserable for Elektra. It's a nice change of pace to see her in Japan. After the horrible murder of her friend Nina and suffering a bit of a disappointment with striking up long-dead feelings for Daredevil, I think Elektra needs a break from the Big Apple for a couple of issues. Maybe she could have an adventure in Asia, where she will recover that part of her soul stolen by the Hand. I certainly hope so!

Shang-Chi and the Kingpin in the next issue! Wonderful! As far as future guest heroes and villains popping up in this book, what are the odds of seeing the following characters anytime soon: Black Widow, Spider-Man, Venom, Carnage, or Hobgoblin?

Anthony J. Kirtsos Jr.
Berlin, MD

That's uncanny, Anthony. You came up with the trip she took, the location, and the reason for her quest. Way to go!

We'd love to satisfy your request for all those guest stars/villains, but as you're aware, Elektra's schedule looks pretty busy for the remaining issue. But you never know what might happen to her after this series ends!

NEXT ISSUE:

ELEKTRA LEARNS SHE'S BEEN SET UP BY THE HAND, WHO HAVE INFILTRATED THE CHASTE, AND FINDS OUT THAT MAC--AND HIS DOJO --HAVE TAKEN QUITE A BEATING! AND THE WORST PART IS... ALL FINGERS ARE POINTING AT ELEKTRA! BE HERE FOR OUR PULSE-POUNDING FINAL ISSUE! SEE YA IN THIRTY!

DESIGN BY COMICRAFT

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